

Question 12: Pesticide Safety Worksheets

Reference:

Applying Pesticides Correctly - A Guide for Private and Commercial Applicators

Unit 11: Transportation, Storage, Disposal, and Spill Cleanup, Pages 4 through 8

Pesticide Storage

Many pesticide handlers use existing buildings or areas within existing buildings for pesticide storage. If large amounts of pesticides will be stored, it is best to build a special pesticide storage facility. A suitable storage site protects people and animals from exposure, protects the environment from contamination, prevents damage to pesticides from temperature extremes and excess moisture, protects the pesticides from theft, vandalism, and unauthorized use, and reduces the likelihood of liability.

Secure the Site

Keep unauthorized people out of a pesticide storage site. Whether a large building or a small cabinet, the facility should be secured.

Sign Posting

Signs should be posted on doors and windows to alert people that pesticides are stored there. Also, post “No Smoking” warnings.

Provide Clean Water

Pesticide storage sites must have an immediate supply of clean water. Potable running water is ideal. If running water is not practical, a large, sealed container with clean water can be installed. Keep an eyewash dispenser immediately available for emergencies.

Prevent Water Contamination

Choose a storage site where water damage is unlikely to occur. Water from burst pipes, spills, overflows, excess rain or irrigation, or flooding streams can damage pesticide containers and pesticides. Water or excess moisture can cause metal containers to rust; paper and cardboard containers to split or crumble; pesticide labeling to peel, smear, run, or otherwise become unreadable; dry pesticides to lump, degrade, or dissolve; slow-release products to release their pesticide; and may move pesticides from the storage site into other areas.

Control the Temperature

A pesticide storage site should be indoors, whenever possible. Storage facilities should be temperature controlled to prevent freezing or overheating. Temperature extremes can damage pesticide containers, may destroy the potency of some pesticides, and overheating can volatilize some pesticides.

Provide Adequate Lighting

The storage site should be well lighted so handlers can read pesticide container labeling, notice whether containers are leaking, and clean up spills properly.

Use Nonporous Materials

The floor of the storage site should be made of sealed concrete, glazed ceramic tile, no-wax sheet flooring, or another easily cleaned material. Carpeting, wood, soil, and other absorbent floors are difficult if not impossible to decontaminate in case of a leak or spill. For ease of cleanup, shelving and pallets should be made of nonabsorbent materials such as plastic or metal. If wood or fiberboard materials are used, they should be coated or covered with plastic or polyurethane or epoxy paint.

Prevent Runoff

Inspect the storage site to determine the likely path of pesticides in case of spills or runoff from firefighting or floods. Pesticide movement away from the storage site can contaminate sensitive areas, including surface water or groundwater. If a storage site holds large quantities of pesticides, some form of containment is needed to prevent pesticide runoff.